

# Leader News

An E-Note to NT-NL Rostered Leaders



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 2011



The new name for the  
ELCA Board of Pensions is  
**PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES**

Learn more about the name change by reading the [News Release](#)



*Plans continue to grow and evolve as the NT-NL moves forward in its vision of a mission area that gives renewed energy to helping congregations on the front line of mission. Two teams are hard at work:*

**The Design & Development Team** for Briarwood Retreat Center has undertaken a full review of Briarwood's site and facilities which has resulted in the development of a new Master Plan for the future of the campus. Over the coming decade the plan envisions that (1) an attractive new entrance will be built that provides a sense of arrival and welcome to the *DiscipleLife Center for Mission* for campers and retreaters, (2) areas of the grounds will be zoned for ministry with children, youth and adults, (3) parking will be added and all vehicular traffic will be moved to the periphery -- and a new pond will be placed central to

the grounds, (4) the *DiscipleLife Center for Mission* will be built to accommodate up to 160 participants in a facility that is technologically "state of the art", (5) a new lodge will be constructed that can hold up to 60 participants in single and double rooms, (6) Trails End cabins will be removed and two new 16 bed cabins provided, (7) a new High School area will be developed with a meeting space and two cabins, to be used for local schools' nature study during the week, and (8) space will be provided for the Briarwood and NT-NL Mission staff. Mr. [Chris Grant](#) chairs this team.

**The Dream Team** for the *DiscipleLife Alive! Initiative* begins meeting this month with the mandate to dream about the programming, technology, purpose and possibilities that will be available to us at the *DiscipleLife Center for Mission at Briarwood*. [Pastor Jane Mar](#) chairs this team.

**Position Opening at Briarwood:** the Board of Directors of Briarwood Retreat Center has opened its search for a new Executive Director. To read the position description, [click here](#).



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**Register before Jan. 8**  
**The 2012 TriSynodical Theological Leadership Conference**

Information about the January 23-25 event at the Waco Convention Center and Hilton in Waco is available [online](#). **Save!** by registering **online, early** (before January 8) and by **credit card**. The event's web page also describes the two hotel options; reserve a room by January 5 to be sure and receive the group rate.



**We Want your Videos!** This year's Mission Assembly has a Global Missions theme. In that spirit, we want to see how your group is helping out your community. Send in a video (30-40 seconds) showing your congregation in action and we will use the video at the assembly or on our Facebook page.

[Learn more.](#)

**Life Together in the Church:** Dr. Peter Steinke (*Healthy Congregations*) will meet with candidates for ministry on December 17 to talk about our *Life Together in the Church*. You are encouraged to recommend the names of those who might be considering a church vocation -- or should be encouraged to do so. This event is to stimulate some reflection on the challenges and opportunities of congregational leadership and to answer questions about the process of preparing for rostered ministry in the ELCA. The event is geared toward high school seniors, college students and second-career inquirers.

[Information about the event](#)

[Recommendation Form](#)

Info [Pastor Stan Meyer](#).



**Immigration:** In a recent letter to President Barack Obama, ELCA bishops expressed concern over new state immigration laws and called for an overhaul of federal immigration policy. [Learn more.](#)

The **Adult Lutherans Organized for Action** (ALOA) Senior Fest is set for Feb. 18 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at St. Olaf, Cranfills Gap. The speaker, Rev. Walt Waiser from Peace, Hurst, will focus on *Prayer*. [Learn more.](#)

**The NT-NL Lutheran Men in Mission** has its next gathering on January 20-21 at Briarwood. The presenter is Richard Ray (Anchor 4 News). [Learn more.](#)

The **2012 Prayer List** of NT-NL congregations, conferences and ministries is now available for [download](#). Pray your way through the mission territory with us in 2012.

Don't forget to forward to the NT-NL Mission Office your congregation's **2012 Mission Support response form** indicating your planned support for the NT-NL and ELCA in 2012. Thanks.

Each year the NT-NL's **Care & Compensation** document is updated and submitted to the Mission Council and Mission Assembly for adoption. If you have concerns or questions about that [document](#) that might be addressed in the next edition, please contact [Pastor Stan Meyer](#).



## OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### 2011-12 Academic Year

*The Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity* at Brite Divinity School -- a series of topics. [Learn more.](#)

### January 23-25

The **TriSynodical Theological Leadership Conference** takes place at the Waco Convention Center, Waco. The theme is *What Shall I Say?* [Learn more.](#)

### January 23-26

A **Large Church Initiative Conference** is offered by the United Methodist Church and is designed to inform and encourage pastors and lay leaders of larger congregations (1,000+ members). The national event takes place Jan. 23-26 at First United Methodist in Richardson. [Learn more.](#)

### January 27-28

*Become an Apprentice to Jesus* is an event to focus on the ways we learn to think, live and love like Jesus. The event features James Bryan Smith, C.J. Fox, and Matt Johnson and is hosted by King of Glory, Dallas, on Jan. 27-28. [Learn more.](#)

### January 28 - February 5, 2012

A **Ministry Staff Seminar**, **A Transition Seminar**, and **A Head of Staff Seminar** are offered annually by the ELCA and includes leadership from Roy Oswald. Each of these three seminars is about four days and takes place at Delray Beach Florida. [Learn more.](#)

### Winter/Spring 2012

**Go. Baptize. Make Disciples:** a Training Institute for the Catechumenate will be offered three times next year. The events are sponsored by the several ecumenical partners, including ELCA. [Learn more.](#)

March 5-6

***New Visions: Leadership for Mission*** is a two-day training event offered through Dr. Peter Steinke's *Healthy Congregations*. The event will help you increase mission awareness, improve congregational vitality, grow leadership skills and manage change in healthy ways. The event is taught by Pr. Jon Lee and Pr. Paul Blom. Cost is \$275 per person. [Learn more.](#)

March 5-17, 2012

**The Fifth International Seminar within the Luther Decade** is set for Wittenberg, Germany, and features Dr. Thomas Schattauer and Dr. Katharina Wiefel-Jenner. The event is taught in English and is built around the theme, *Sing to the Lord a New Son: Liturgy and Worship in a Lutheran Perspective*. [Learn more.](#)

May 27 - June 1

**Spanish Language & Hispanic Ministry Intensive** offered by the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest at the campus in Austin. [Learn more.](#)



### And don't forget

The **Congregational Leadership Academy** will be offered again in early 2012 to help develop the leadership skills of your top leaders. Skills for understanding congregational systems, conflict management, and missional vision are the primary skills that are considered. The event takes place at Zion, McGregor; the text is Peter Steinke's *A Door Set Open*. [Learn more and register.](#)

This academy is funded in part by the Leadership Formation Fund made possible by *DiscipleLife Alive!*



If your congregation was covered by liability and/or property insurance with **Charity First Insurance** between 8/26/94 and 9/1/05 you should know that a class action settlement of claims is in the works. Notice of the settlement is found in The Lutheran magazine.

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is a worldwide movement among Christians to heal divisions within the Church. Each January 18-25 Christians are encouraged to pray together as a sign of our unity in Christ. [Available resources.](#)

